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a tubular member including a first marker band proximate a position<sup>17</sup> corresponding to a leading end of a self-expanding stent, a second marker band<sup>37</sup> proximate a position corresponding to a trailing end of the self-expanding stent to indicate a position of the trailing end, and a third marker band between the first and second marker bands and between the leading and trailing ends of the stent, and ( an outer member<sup>24</sup> positioned about the tubular member; the outer member being slidable relative to the tubular member in an axial direction; and ( 3; 15-22) an inflatable device provided on the catheter and positioned proximate the distal end.

5. (Twice Amended) A delivery system for a self-expanding stent, the delivery system comprising:

a catheter having a distal end, the catheter being configured to retain a self-expanding stent proximate the distal end, the catheter including

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a tubular member including a first marker band proximate a position corresponding to a leading end of a self-expanding stent, a second marker band proximate a position corresponding to a trailing end of the self-expanding stent, and a third marker band between the first and second marker bands, and

an outer member positioned about the tubular member; the outer member being slidable relative to the tubular member in an axial direction;

an inflatable device provided on the catheter and positioned proximate the distal end; and

B2  
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a loading funnel, the loading funnel being configured to be removably attachable to a distal end of the tubular member.

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17. (Twice Amended) A method for implantation of a self-expanding stent, the method comprising:

providing a delivery system including a self-expanding stent, a catheter having a distal end and being configured to retain the self-expanding stent proximate the distal end, and an inflatable device provided on the catheter and positioned beneath at least a portion of the self-expanding stent prior to deployment of the self-expanding stent;

33

delivering the delivery system to a region of a vessel to be repaired;

implanting the self-expanding stent into a wall of the vessel to be repaired;

and

inflating the inflatable device to assist expansion of the self-expanding stent.

34

29. (Amended ) In combination, a self-expanding stent and a delivery system for the self-expanding stent, the combination comprising:

a self-expanding stent;

a catheter having a distal end, the catheter being configured to retain the self-expanding stent proximate the distal end; and

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an inflatable device provided on the catheter, at least a portion of the self-expanding stent overlapping at least a portion of the inflatable device prior to deployment of the self-expanding stent.

31. (Amended) In combination, a self-expanding stent and a delivery system for the self-expanding stent, the combination comprising:

a self-expanding stent;

a catheter having a distal end, the catheter being configured to retain the self-expanding stent proximate the distal end, the catheter including

a tubular member, and

an outer member coaxially positioned about the tubular member, the outer member being slidable relative to the tubular member in an axial direction;

an inflatable device provided on the catheter, at least a portion of the self-expanding stent overlapping at least a portion of the inflatable device; and

a loading funnel, the loading funnel being configured to be removably attachable to a distal end of the tubular member.

44. (Amended) A method for implantation of a self-expanding stent, the method comprising:

providing a delivery system including a self-expanding stent, a catheter having a distal end and being configured to retain the self-expanding stent proximate the distal end, an inflatable device provided on the catheter and positioned beneath at

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